



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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#02

LADACIN Network would like to express their appreciation of the Board's action to increase flexibility for private schools in the employment of school nurses.

LADACIN Network has two school campus locations The Schroth School in Monmouth County with approximately 80 students and the Lehmann School in Ocean County with approximately 42 students. LADACIN Network, formally Cerebral Palsy of Monmouth and Ocean Counties, has provided services to special education students for 50 years. The schools are approved by the State Department of Education and accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities.

All students at Schroth and Lehmann schools are classified multiply disabled. More than 50% of our student population would be considered medically fragile or "students with complicated health care needs who face each day the possibility of life threatening emergency requiring the skill and judgment of a professional nurse".

In the 2004-05 school year, LADACIN nurses completed a total of 19,540 health procedures. These procedures included administration of medications, insulin injections, topical treatments, seizure care, gastrostomy tube feedings, wound care, respiratory treatments, and monitoring of temperatures and weights.

There is nursing coverage 100% of the school day. The Schroth school employs three full time nursing staff, one RN with a BS degree, one BSN, and one LPN. The BSN degreed nurse was granted an emergency certificate for a school nurse.

The Lehmann school employs three full time nursing staff, one RN and two LPNs.

There is also a part time school certified nurse. The Lehmann school application for a waiver for a full time school certified nurse was denied stating that "The lack of access to a full-time certified nurse may compromise the health and safety of students".

LADACIN Network believes the health and safety of the students served is adequately met by our professional nursing staff. The 6 full time LADACIN nurses in the school program have a total of 123 years of nursing experience and have worked with a pediatric population in hospitals, rehabilitation centers, doctor's offices and in home care.

Our students are making wonderful progress in their comprehensive school program despite their medical fragility. Over 90% of the objectives written in their Individual Educational Plans were either achieved or partially achieved last year.

LADACIN Network supports the proposed change in the Programs to Support Student Development Code 6A:16-2.3 which removes the full-time equivalent requirement for certified school nurses. Private schools should have the flexibility to use certified school nurses or registered nurses depending on the medical needs of the students they serve.

Thank you for voting to remove the full time requirement from the code proposal.

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Technical Education Center
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